DEMOCRATIC

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BAN FOR WORKERS' PARTY?

Nazi Judges To Decide

Eleven West German judges many of whom occupied high positions under Hitler, will meet on June 8th to decide whether to ban the Communist Party throughout West Germany.

The judges, who make up the First Senate of the West German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, will have to act on a Government motion asking for the banning of the Communist Party as an allegedly treasonable organisation.

The ban action was announced more than one year ago, but has since been constantly postponed on the grounds that "more evidence" was being collected.

The West German Chancellor has now ordered that the Communist Party be banned before the elections to the West German Parliament, which are due in September. Real reason for the threatened ban is the fact that the Communist Party has stood in the forefront of the West German struggle for peace, against a revived nazi Wehrmacht, and in favour of better wages and living conditions.

The judges who are due to try the case include such "democrats" as:

Franz Wessel, who was a leading official in Hitler's Transport Ministry and who during the war was transport adviser for the nazi governor of Poland, and thus responsible for organising the "death trains" to the concentration camps.

Theodor Ritterspach, an official in the West German Ministry of the Interior (the Ministry which initiated the charges which the court is trying). During the entire nazi period he was a permanent official in a responsible post in Hitler's Finance Ministry.

Dr Joachim Lehmann, who was legal adviser to a number of business firms, and advised them on the best ways of "legalising" the loot which they acquired in European countries overrun by Hitler.

(cont. on p. 2)

Krupp Cancels "No Arms" Agreement

The directors of the Krupp Works in Essen have given notice to trade union representatives in the works that the present factory aggreement will be cancelled with effect from June 30th this year.

The factory agreement, besides laying down minimum wages and working conditions, included a paragraph pledging that no arms production of any type would take place in the works.

First answer of the workers of the Essen plant came in the election of shop stewards, held one day after the cancellation notice, in which 2384 workers voted for the representatives of the trade unity list, including Communists, progressive Social Democrats and non-party workers

HELL'S ANGELS

Chancellor Adenauer: I'm using the best whitewash on Manstein, but those blood spots keep on coming through.

(WAR CRIMINAL FIELD MARSHAL MANSTEIN WAS RELEASED BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON MAY 7th. FOR DETAILS, SEE PAGE 5)

NEW WEST GERMAN PARTY FOR PEACE AND UNITY

When West Germany goes to the polls in September this year to elect a new Parliament, electors will be able to vote for the candidates of a new party which aims to bring together all Germans who want the peaceful reunification of Germany and the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty.

The new party "League of Germans for Unity, Peace and Freedom" was launched on May 10th by Dr Josef Wirth, Catholic Chancellor of the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic, and Wilhelm Elfes, former Christian Democrat and ex-Lord Mayor of Muenchen-Gladbach.

Dr Wirth and Herr Elfes have been very active in the past few months in the drive to create a movement in West Germany which can bring together Germans of all classes who want peace and unity.

The proclamation made by the new party on its foundation stated in part:

"The League of Germans introduces itself as a powerful association of all Germans, without distinction of origin, profession, religion or party ties, who are determined to cast off the unworthy and undemocratic Adenauer Government, which places the interests of American power-politics above the interests of the people.

"The League of Germans, the coalition of the national forces of the middle-class, the peasants and the workers, is governed solely by German interests. It therefore supports the following unavoidable steps towards peace and unity:

Understanding between Germans in West and East on the vital claims of our people, to be presented jointly to all the victorious powers, and understanding on the preparation of an electoral law binding for the whole of Germany, so that all-German free elections to a National Assembly and for a democratic Government may be held as soon as possible.

Understanding between the four powers on the peaceful solution of the German problem, in consultation with representatives of both parts of Germany. Cancellation of the treaties of Bonn and Paris, which are irreconcilable with the vital interests of the German people.

Conclusion of a peace treaty guaranteeing complete independence of reunited Germany, but excluding all one-sided participation in military, economic or political alliances or treaties directed against another country.

Withdrawal of all occupation troops from the territory of reunited Germany."

(cont. from p. 1.)

BAN FOR WORKERS' PARTY?

Professor Hermann Hoepker-Aschoff, the president of the court, is a member of the Free Democratic Party, which unites large numbers of neo-nazis. From 1925—1931 he was Finance Minister of Prussia, and played an important part in the political intrigues which led to Hitler's rise to power.

The Political Committee of the British Communist Party, in a statement issued on May 15th, declared:

"Just as Hitler in 1933 directed the first blow agains the Communist Party, as the leader of the popular fight against fascism, so today the representatives of imperialism in West Germany direct their attack against the Communist Party because it leads the fight for peace and democracy, against the Bonn Treaties, for the democratic unity of the German people and for national independence.

"The threat . . . to ban the Communist Party is also a step toward an all-round attack on the working-class movement in West Germany as part of the preparations for a new aggressive war.

"For this reason it constitutes a danger to the British people as well as to the German people.

"At a time when hopes for a peaceful settlement and for the establishment of a united, democratic and peace-loving Germany are being expressed on all sides, these hopes must not be sabotaged by Adenauer's anti-democratic measures and war plans.

"We urge all Labour organisations to protest against the threatened ban on the Communist Party of Germany, and to resist the attempts to build a new nazi army"

(GERMAN REPORT will be glad to receive copies of any resolutions on this subject passed by Labour and other organisations in Britain and elsewhere.)

LATE NEWS – *TRIAL POSTPONED*

As we go to press comes news that the West German Constitutional Court has postponed the charge against the Communist Party from June 8th, and a new date has not yet been fixed.

This decision may be regarded as a first success of the protests both from inside Germany and from other countries against the ban attempt.

The postponement does not mean that the attack on the Communist Party, which plays such a vital role in the fight for peace, has been abandoned, however. Protests against the Adenauer plan are more urgently necessary than ever.

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10,000 Demonstrate Against West Berlin Fascists

Over ten thousand West Berliners demonstrated on May 15th against a meeting staged by the neo-fascist "Deutsche Partei" in the American Sector.

West Berlin police made repeated truncheon attacks on the demonstrators, both Social Democrats and Communists, and high-pressure hoses were also used in brutal attacks. More than 550 persons were arrested. When they continued their anti-fascist demonstration in the police cells, the high pressure hoses were brought into action through the cell windows, and the prisoners had to spend the night standing ankle deep in water.

Murderous Farmers Sentenced

Terms of imprisonment up to life sentences were passed on May 7th on six farmers from the village of Nermsdorf near Weimar, found guilty of making a murderous attack on a progressive villager and nearly killing him.

Evidence was given that the farmers had planned to do away with all villagers who favoured the formation of an agricultural production cooperative in the village. A police search of the farm of Erich Hemme, rich farmer who led the gang, showed that he had a library of nazi books, hidden firearms, and maintained contact with over 200 members of his old nazi regiment.

"Karl Marx Order"

The newly instituted "Order of Karl Marx" was conferred on May 8th, the Day of Liberation, on Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic; Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister; and Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister.

The new order had been instituted three days earlier, on May 5th, marking Marx's 135th birthday, as highest distinction of the German Democratic Republic to be conferred upon individuals and groups particularly distinguishing themselves in the building of Socialism in Germany.

Politbureau Change

Franz Dahlem has been excluded from the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, and thus from the Politbureau and the Secretariat, the Central Committee announced on May 15th.

This step had been taken because of Dahlem's "political blindness with regard to the activity of imperialist agents, and his attitude towards his mistakes, which was not party-like", the announcement said.

BRITISH CYCLISTS WON'T FORGET

By Bill Mills, Sports Reporter, "News Chronicle", London

For four days I have followed the fortunes of the riders engaged in the Six Annual Peace Race in their trek through the German Democratic Republic.

The excitement of the actual racing has already been described to you. Let me tell you of the feeling in the British Camp over their reception by the German people. From the very first step over the rain soaked border at Bad Schandau, it has been smiles and friendship all the way, and this between two nations so recently, and so tragically, at each other's throats.

Chemnitz, Leipzig, Berlin, Goerlitz, it has been the same all the way. Each evening when the prizes have been distributed, our tired, weary riders have settled down in their bedrooms, there to open the large packet of letters sent from unknown school children and pioneers. One of our team, Gordon Thomas (he has the nickname "Tiny"), can speak German, not fluently, but good enough for him to translate the letters.

"We cannot possibly answer them individually", he told me, "but try and explain through the German press how glad we are to have received them".

Yes, the English team will never forget their four days of racing in "DDR" as they have learned to call your Republic. They have suffered on your cobblestoned roads, they have endured your wintry May weather, and they are convinced that the wind always blows against you in Germany.

But, to balance the discomforts of the day's racing, they have enjoyed... and admired... your wonderful organisation and your amazing hospitality. They leave Germany for Poland with the team reduced to two men, Gordon Thomas and Stan Jones. They cannot hope to repeat the success gained by Ian Steel, who won the 1952 Peace Race, but they are content to have competed.

One final impression. The view of Stalin-Allee at the start from Berlin Magnificent!

(Specially written for "Neues Deutschland", Berlin)

"WE WILL RECONQUER EAST PRUSSIA" — BONN MINISTER

"We intend to reconquer our own land" stated Jakob Kaiser, West German "Minister for All-German Affairs" addressing a meeting of former inhabitants of the area on May 10th in Bochum, British Zone.

"I can assure you that the entire Federal Government stands behind me in this aim" Jakob Kaiser stated. "I can pledge every single East Prussian that our German homeland does not end on the Elbe or on the Oder, but that it includes Middle and East Germany."

(Neo-fascists in West Germany use the terms Middle Germany to describe the German Democratic Republic, and East Germany to describe all other areas, including large parts of Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, which were at one time or other included by force of arms inside the borders of the Kaiser's or Hitler's Germany.)

Dr Alfred Gille, the chairman of the reactionary refugee organisation which organised the meeting, in a speech full of nazi expressions, said that "a new order must be introduced in the East Prussian area, and for the whole of eastern Europe."

Under the terms of the Potsdam Agreement, the northern part of East Prussia was incorporated in the Soviet Union, and the Agreement added: "The President of the United States and the British Prime Minister have declared that they will support this proposal at the forthcoming peace settlement." The southern part of East Prussia was allotted to Poland.

Spying Deacon Jailed

Rostock District court sentenced Deacon Herbert Buetke of Wismar to eigth years hard labor on May 15th for offences against the state and against peace.

Evidence was given that the accused, after special training in West Berlin, had tried to recruit members of the Protestant "Young Congregation" to act as spies for him. When arrested, Deacon Buetke was found to be in possession of propaganda material and war-mongering pamphlets from West Berlin.

The State in the German Democratic Republic

By Walter Ulbricht, Secretary General of the Socialist Unity Party

Readers interested in political theory have raised the question as to what form of state the German Democratic Republic is today.

A clear answer to this question is given on this page by Walter Ulbricht, in passages quoted from a Karl Marx Commemoration speech which he delivered in Berlin on May 5th 1953.

In 1945 the German working class, with the help of the Soviet occupation authorities (in East Germany, ed.) began to break up the old state apparatus, to carry through a revolutionary reorganisation of village life through land reform, and to confiscate the property of the big monopolists bosses, the banks and the nazi war criminals. This action, taken in accordance with the teachings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin prepared the foundations for a progressive democratic development.

Qualitative Change

The formation of the German Democratic Republic (in 1949, ed.) meant not only a constitutional change in the state relations, but also a qualitative change. The task was now to stabilise the position of the progressive forces in the state apparatus, and to bring all the functions of the state power into operation, which entails suppressing hostile forces, steering the social and cultural work of construction, and defending the German Democratic Republic.

The constitutional clause laying down that "the state power serves the well-being of the people, freedom, peace and democratic progress" demands a further development of the democratic tasks, particularly with regard to the encouragement of the help and the initiative of all democratic forces.

Article 3 of the constitution states: "Every citizen has the right and the duty to help in forming his community, his county, his province, and the German Democratic Republic as a whole."

Education Needed

Every citizen is also obliged "to act in accordance with the spirit of the constitution, and to defend it against its enemies". The development of our democratic order, the continual strengthening of the popular democratic order demands a great work of education. It is necessary to convince and to win over the working class and the toiling people to cooperate in carrying out the new laws, which in their essence are Socialist laws.

At the present stage of development the German Democratic Republic is a workers' and peasants' power, in which the working class has the leading role. The state in the German Democratic Republic is successfully fulfilling the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

This means that the state is solving the basic problems of the transition period from capitalism to Socialism — the construction of the economic and cultural foundations of Socialism, the suppression of the anti-popular forces, and the organisation of the defence of the homeland.

Hostile Attacks

The hostile attacks are directed in particular against our state power. The enemy attempts to prevent members of the state machinery from carrying out their tasks; attempts to corrupt them or to prevail upon them to adopt a "neutral position". Adopting such a position would mean nothing more nor less than helping the forces of the past, the old reactionaries, in their hopeless attempt to restore the old capitalist conditions.

Under the condition imposed by the creation of the foundations of Socialism it is necessary for the state machinery to use strictly scientific methods, and to raise the ideological level, the technical knowledge, the work organisation and the work discipline of its members.

The teachings of Stalin in his work "Marxism and Questions of Philology" on the relation of the basis and the superstructure has further enriched the theory of the state, and has given us important advice for the construction of Socialism.

Comrade Stalin underlined the fact that the superstructure can become a great active force when it takes all necessary measures to help the new social order to finish off and to abolish the old basis and the old classes. As Comrade Stalin says, the superstructure is constructed by the basis, for the task of serving it and actively helping it.

For us, this entails the lesson that we must raise the ideological and technical niveau of our colleagues, and devote more attention to carrying out correctly the resolutions of the Party and the Government.

Land Reform

In one part of Germany, we have acted in accordance with the theories of Marx and Lenin. The first was to carry out to the end the tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution in Germany. This was done by means of the democratic administrative measures, and the revolutionary change in agriculture accomplished by land reform.

In the conditions of the deep catastrophe into which fascist imperialism has plunged the German people, the solution of these problems was necessarily linked with the destruction of the foundations of German imperialism. For this reason the decisive task in the years 1945 to 1949 was the destruction of the power of the German trust and bank capital, the war criminals, the big landlords and Junkers, and the state bureaucracy who supported them.

The solution of this task was the basic condition for German reconstruction, for peaceful and friendly relations with neighbouring states, for the path to Socialism, and for the creation of a happy life for the people.

Different Path

In West Germany the Social Democrats took a completely different path. They declared that one should not yet destroy capitalism, which lay prostrate.

Instead of helping to create the basis of democracy, the Social Democratic leaders helped the American, British and French occupation powers in saving the positions of power of the trust bosses, the bankers and the big landlords in West Germany.

Once again German Social Democracy proved that its leaders have finally sunk to the position of lackeys of the bourgeoisie.

Thus we see in Germany two paths of development. Only in the German Democratic Republic did the working people learn from the past, and wipe out imperialism from the roots.

At present the developments in the German Democratic Republic have entered the second stage, now that the tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution have been carried out. We have gone on to convert into practice the tasks of the Socialist revolution: that is to say to build the foundations of Socialism.

Some people forget that we have only begun with the task of creating the basis of Socialism. They want to see results, but these results have still to be worked for. Those about whom I am speaking should remember that in the transitional period from capitalism to Socialism the class truggle is intensified, and that inevitably difficulties arise.

Sabotage

Rich peasants sabotage grain deliveries; wholesalers divert into black-market channels goods vitally necessary to the population, enemy agents attempt to prevent the fulfilment of the economic plan, as events in a number of industries have already shown.

In addition, some state officials, directors of Socialist factories and managers of nationally owned estates have not yet learned how to work by new methods and how to organise work properly.

There are other hostile elements who would like to lull the vigilance of the working people, and who ask: "Why is it necessary to strengthen state power?"

I should like to reply to this argument.

As long as there are fascist and militarist organisations in West Germany preparing an attack on the German Democratic Republic; as long as there is a government in Bonn which intends to carry out the Bonn War Treaty — for so long must the state power in the German Democratic Republic be strengthened.

The working class and all working people in the German Democratic Republic understand that they must not only master the most progressive science and the most modern technical methods, but that it is also necessary for them to learn to defend their homeland and to protect the great work of construction.

The working class of the German Democratic Republic, led by the Socialist Unity Party, fights and will continue to fight for the unity of our nation, for the development of all that is best in the revolutionary and cultural traditions of our people, for a better future for our people, and for a united, strong, fruitful, democratic and peace-loving Germany.

ATROCITY MARSHAL FREED

"I have nothing to regret": Manstein

The British authorities in Germany finally released Hitler's murderous Field Marshal Fritz Erich von Manstein on May 7th.

Immediately after his final release Manstein issued a statement offering his services for the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht.

Manstein was tried in 1949 by a British Military Court, presided over by Lieutenant-General Sir Franck Simpson, Commander in Chief of the British Western Command, and found guilty on a long list of charges, including:

ordering political commissars to be executed without trial;

permitting the extermination of large numbers of Jews, Gypsies and others;

disregarding his duty to ensure humane treatment of prisoners of war;

ordering the compulsory employment of prisoners of war on prohibited work.

In his speech for the prosecution Sir Arthur Comins-Carr stated: "The accused gave himself unsparingly for almost five years of Hitler's campaigns to the service of this barbarous policy, and was one of its principal executants."

Under cross examination von Manstein stated that he considered the shooting of partisans and hostages, including women, "a measure of retaliation necessary for the protection of the troops"; he admitted that he had ordered the execution of 62 Jews and Communists as a reprisal for the deaths of three German soldiers, and had recommended for the Iron Cross members of the security services who had shot 1200 civilians in the Crimea.

"There is nothing in my conduct during the war which I have cause to regret" Manstein concluded.

British Release Belsen Beast

The British authorities in Germany released on May 7th former concentration camp wardress Herta Ehlert, who had been found guilty of multiple war crimes and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Herta Ehlert was one of the guards at Belsen concentration camp. She was found guilty and sentenced on November 16th 1945 by a British Military Court presided over by Major General H. P. M. Ferney-Ficklin.

Giving evidence at the trial the British Brigadier Llewellyn Glyn-Hughes described the scenes when British troops liberated Belsen on April 15th 1945.

"The conditions in the camp were indescribable" he stated. "There were piles of corpses lying all over the camp ... One hut had 208 occupants and was close to a pile of corpses. There were dead women lying in the passage, which was so full that no woman could lie out straight ... There were large stocks of unused medical supplies in the camp."

Now Herta Ehlert, one of the S. S. woman responsible for this state of affairs, has been set free, and is at liberty to join the new West German Wehrmacht in course of formation.

On the same date the British authorities released two former guards from Neuengamme concentration camp, Bladowski and Letz, who had originally been sentenced to death for mistreating allied prisoners, and whose sentences were later remitted to 12 years.

Haendel Festival

A musical museum has been established in Halle, East Germany, in the house in which the classical composer Haendel used to reside. The museum, which will include a great number of old musical instruments, and a concert hall, will be opened in the course of the Haendel Festival to be held in Halle this summer.

KARL MARX STADT WILL BE SOCIALIST CENTRE

Karl Marx Stadt will become a centre of Socialist construction in the German Democratic Republic, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated on May 10th, at a special ceremony at which Chemnitz was renamed Karl Marx Stadt.

Speaking to more than 180,000 workers in the town, Prime Minister Grotewohl said:

"This town will become a centre of Socialist construction, a centre of the engineering and heavy engineering industry, industries which serve to improve our lives and enrich society.

"As the result of a resolution taken by the Government the town will be rebuilt on a Socialist basis."

To mark the renaming of their town more than 15,000 workers from Karl Marx Stadt have taken individual pledges to increase production, raise their working norms, and to work more economically.

I Come From Karl Marx Stadt

By Stefan Heym, best-selling German-American novelist

The relationship which everyone has to his home and to his home town is formed by the experiences of his early youth. The impressions left by these early years are unconscious, but they go deep and last long.

I can just remember the field-grey play shirt with buttons of black, white and red, the colours of imperial Germany, which I wore as a small child. I can remember a group of soldiers in field grey uniforms, perhaps a company of them, with full equipment and rifles, marching along the West Strasse in Chemnitz. I can remember a great crowd of people on a huge square, a confusion of noise, shouts, flags — that was a workers' demonstration on the Opern Patz, I discovered later — and because of the workers I could not go to see a fairy tale performance in the opera house.

When do first impressions like these begin to mould a persons conscious mind?

I can remember a bare-footed school-mate in the Heinrich Beck School who told me one day during my first year at school that the Russians would soon come, and that together with the Russians we would abolish some terrible treaty.

But the Russians did not come. Inflation come in their stead. That I can remember clearly; there was a lot of talk about money, and you could not buy anything for it. Curiously enough, however, there were people who acquired a great deal in this period, particularly in Chemnitz, where commodities had a solid value, and where people were judged very strictly according to their social status.

But then the moment came when the conception of "injustice" became clear. Anyone growing up in Chemnitz would have to have been blind and deaf not to notice that there were different kinds of people. Some lived on the Kassberg hill, and in the high-class neighbourhoods towards Schoenau and Siegmar, and they lived well. The other people lived in slums, and they were workers, and they lived badly.

And there seemed to be some connection between this and the masses of people and the noise on the Opern Platz. Now the impressions began to fall into place, and they produced a picture which led to the asking of questions.

The only thing was, a child from a well-to-do "better class" home, who went to the State High School and wore a blue cap marking him off as member of a special class, got only partial answers, or no answers, or most often wrong answers to his questions.

But children sometimes have sharp instinctive feelings. The teachers said this and said that, but the streets, the smoke, the gloomy halls of the shops, and the tired faces of the workers streaming out of the factories, all spoke another language, a more convincing language.

My mother told me once that under one of my school essays the teacher had written: "H seems to want to change the world". Most of the teachers were frustrated corporals of the Imperial Army, and future officers of Hitler's Storm Troops, and I do not think that this teacher meant his remark as a compliment. But he was right, and today I regard his remark as great praise. I have to thank Chemnitz, my home town, for the recognition of the necessity to change the world and to do away with such crying injustices. The town of Chemnitz was a clear example of the decay, the misery, the phoney glitter and the abysmal class contradictions of the old days.

Friends, aquaintances and relations from those days are dead, or scattered over the face of the earth; Herr Ahnert from the Chemnitz Gestapo saw to that. The suffocating atmosphere of the Chemnitz middle class produced, from the morass of the years, those great brown bubbles which gave off such a pestilential odour.

Yet, on the other hand, I learned a short while ago that Chemnitz was the only city in Germany in which a Communist Party organisation functioned without a break throughout the entire Hitler period. It was not always composed of the same comrades, but when one was arrested and tortured to death, there was always another man ready to take his place and do his job. Those were the unobtrusive, grey-faced Chemnitz industrial workers; perhaps the very same who once, unintentionally, blocked for a child the way to a fairy-tale, and pushed him on the way to reality. They have every right to give their city and my city, the proud new name of Karl Marx Stadt.

Chemnitz belongs to the past. The way in which it worked and suffered, creating riches for the one and bitterness for others was a living blood-soaked illustration of the works and the thoughts of the man whose name it now receives.

Karl Marx Stadt belongs to the future, and the future belongs to Karl Marx Stadt. It will be a city wholly changed. The fat textile bosses and their silly wives will no longer dominate the town, and the big shareholders of the firms of Hartmann and Wanderer and all the rest will no longer get soused in the bar of the Chemnitzer Hof.

There will be no S. S., and no Storm Troops there, and people will no longer bow and scrape to those above, while they wipe their feet upon those below.

A new life has come to the city, with new houses and new parks, new factories and new people.

And when someone asks: "Where do you come from?", it will no longer be necessary to say, with a bitter taste in the mouth: "Well, from Chemnitz". Now I can say: "I come from Karl Marx Stadt, and I am proud of it!"

IT'S A LONG, LONG WAY . . .

Adenauer Tries to Ratify Bonn Treaty

Almost a year ago, on May 25th 1952, West German Chancellor Adenauer signed the Bonn War Treaty, providing for the creation of a new West German Wehrmacht, the perpetuation of the Anglo-American occupation of West Germany, and a permanent partitioning of Germany.

He expected the treaty to be ratified by his parliament within a few weeks, but mass pressure by the people of West Germany led again and again to a postponement of the date. Here is a short chronicle of these events:

April 25th 1952:

"Treaty to be signed on May 13th"

It was officially announced in Paris that the European Defence Community Treaty, providing for a new Wehrmacht in West Germany, would be signed on May 13th.

April 26th—28th 1952:

Mass Protests in West Germany

Hundreds of thousands of workers demonstrated against the treaty in West Germany. Delegates of 60,000 engineers in Stuttgart threatened to use all methods to prevent signature.

May 7th 1952:

Signature on May 20th

News agency messages from Bonn said that "Government circles" announced signature would take place on May 20th.

May 11th 1952:

Bloody Sunday in Essen

Police shoot into 40,000 young people protesting the proposed new Wehrmacht, killing patriot Philipp Mueller, aged 21, and seriously wounding two other young people.

May 24th 1952:

New Soviet note

New Soviet note addressed to the western powers, with concrete proposals for re-establishing German unity and ending the occupation.

May 25th 1952:

Adenauer signs treaty

Adenauer, Acheson, Eden and Schuman, behind police cordons and barbed wire in Bonn, sign the treaty.

May 26th 1952:

"Hardest part is over" says Adenauer

After signing the European Defence Community Treaty in Paris, the corrolary of the Bonn Treaty, Adenauer states: "The hardest part is over".

May 27th—June 9th 1952:

Big protest demonstrations

150,000 demonstrate in Munich, 80,000 in Nuremberg, hundreds of thousands in the German Democratic Republic.

June 10th 1952:

"Ratification at the end of June"

Adenauer demands that the Bonn Parliament ratify the treaty before the end of June, but Bonn deputies, afraid of constituents, delay decision.

July 9th 1952:

First reading in Bonn

Bonn Parliament gives treaty first reading and refers it to committee.

September 19th 1952:

East German delegates in Bonn

Official delegation from the Parliament of the German Democratic Republic visits Bonn, bringing proposals for free elections for a united Germany which would render the treaty obsolete.

September 28th 1952:

"Ratification by end of October"

The second and third readings of the treaty ratification would "certainly be finished by the end of October" Adenauer announced.

October 14th 1952:

Nine million votes against treaty

More than nine million West German citizens had voted against the treaty in plebiscites in all parts of the country, the "German Assembly" announced.

November 18th 1952:

Adenauer defeated in parliament

The West German Parliament rejected Adenauer's motion that the ratification debate should be held on November 26th.

December 12th 1952:

Third reading postponed

The second and third reading of the ratification bill are due to be voted upon, but the debate shows such uncertainty amongst the deputies that Adenauer postpones the third reading until January 12th.

January 13th 1953:

"Ratify at once" Adenauer

Addressing the Bonn Press Club Adenauer announces: "The treaty must be ratified at once, for otherwise there is the chance that an understanding may be reached between the east and the west."

February 5th 1953:

"Ratify now!" Dulles

U. S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, visiting West Germany, criticises "slackness" in ratification and sets West European Governments the task of ratifying in 75 days.

March 3rd 1953:

Vote behind barbed wire

Behind heavy cordons of police, and barricades of barbed wire keeping the people at bay, Adenauer gets a majority for the treaty in the Bundestag, the Lower House of Parliament.

April 24th 1953:

Upper House refuses ratification

The Bundesrat, the Upper House of Parliament, refused to take a decision, voting by 20 to 18 to delay ratification until the constitutional position was clear.

April 27th 1953:

President refuses signature

Adenauer proposed that President Theodor Heuss should sign the treaties without awaiting Upper House approval. Heuss refused to sign.

May 15th 1953:

Upper House Capitulates

The Bundesrat, under extreme pressure from Adenauer, and after the use of every form of political trickery, decided that its approval was not required. A Social Democratic spokesman said that the Constitutional Court would now be asked to decide whether the decision of the Bundesrat was in accordance with the Constitution.

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Popular will in West Germany postponed the ratification of the treaties for a whole year, and the great peoples movement for peace will go on in further actions to prevent the creation of a new, aggressive West German Wehrmacht.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The season for silly stories about East Berlin and East Germany never really ends, but the last few weeks have brought a particularly ripe crop. One of these clippings I handed on to Ruth Post, American wife of a German antifascist who lives in Berlin.

Here are the clipping and her comments:

"Life in east Berlin, even in the Stalin Allee, is grey and depressing. If the east Berliner laughs, he laughs inwardly... In buses, trams, or the underground, passengers sit in silence. In restaurants one could hear the drop of a pin. After dark, the streets are empty and the people pass like shadows across the scene... That is why, in spite of the scarred buildings, the ruins, the partitions, the atmosphere of west Berlin is so invigorating..."

London Times, May 4th, 1953

Horse Laugh

When I first read the above my very natural and healthy reaction was to simply laugh outright. For the next couple of days I carried the piece around in my purse; it was fun bringing it out occasionally to amuse people with. (One of these, a taxi-driver for whom I translated it, remarked with typical Berlin humor that the author was obviously stone deaf).

Later, when I decided to consider the lines more soberly, I was struck, first of all, by that "even in Stalin Allee". Why the "even", unless to admit, unwittingly, that just Stalin Allee has quite an opposite reputation, and not only here in the east of Berlin. Because Stalin Allee, Berlin's first socialist street, is not just an effort, or a successful experiment. It is an accomplished, irrevocable fact, and an extremely impressive one.

Houses for Workers

Here, built up on what was one of ruined Berlin's most devastated areas, on an uncommonly broad and beautiful avenue, are block after block after block of handsome, modern, solidly built apartment houses, for workers. There are restaurants and coffee houses, playground and an enormous Sports Hall, as well as quantities of state-owned shops, meat markets and food shops. One can buy anything on Stalin Allee from sail-boats to live trout. The streets are alive with traffic, and on the broad side-walks the shoppers and strollers, working men and women, act as though they owned the place, which they do. Stalin-Allee is in continuous growth and expansion. It is one of the most exciting and moving thoroughfares in the world today, and to say it is "gray and depressing" is as ridiculous as to say it does not exist at all, the evident wish of our correspondent.

I particularly enjoyed the lines about east Berlin's gruesome stillness, and how the silence of the restaurants here makes loud the drop of pins. Because just that has been so often a point of difference between me and my husband, who prefers "a quiet table in a corner somewheres", while I don't at all mind sitting in the full blare of an orchestra, surrounded by people, noise and cigarette smoke. (In fact I rather like it.) Here my husband is usually the more unfortunate, since east Berlin restaurants are notoriously full and noisy, with orchestras or trios playing from 4:00 P. M. on in all the main state-owned restaurants.

"Empty Streets"

"After dark, the streets are empty, and the people pass like shadows accross the scene". One of the neater literary tricks of the week, that one, — all those shadowy people passing along the empty, empty streets. Our correspondent also seems to have missed a fine opportunity with his shadows, — he should have had them dropping from hunger, one by one. It might even have gotten him a raise.

"That is why, inspite of the scarred buildings, the ruins, the partitions, the atmosphere of west Berlin is so invigorating." This last is not at all amusing, it is frightening. How can any sane, decent Englishman, after the experience of the last war, find the clearly Nazi atmosphere of west Berlin invigorating?! But even his dull eyesight couldn't miss, right through his invigoration, the stagnant ruins of Berlin's western section. Not that there are no ruins or scarred buildings in east Berlin. Of course there are, but the eastern sector, as is clear now to everyone living anywheres in Berlin, is in a vital, active state of development, with reconstruction, building and repairing going on continuously.

One thing we do have in common, this correspondent and I. We are both English-speaking foreigners living in Berlin. And there is just one other point on which I heartily agree: there certainly is a difference between east and west Berlin. I personally prefer an atmosphere of reconstruction, surrounded by people who live and think in terms of peace and who work actively for the keeping of it.

Ruth Post

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Since Bismarck

"Dr Adenauer may well be deemed the wisest German statesman since the days of Bismarck" stated Sir Winston Churchill in the British House of Commons on May 11th.

It may be remembered that Bismarck was the originator of the phrase "Blood and Iron" to characterise his political methods; that he precipitated the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 by means of forgery; that he "Prussianised" the whole of Germany and laid the foundations for modern German militarism; and that he fathered the Anti-Socialist Laws under which, between 1878 and 1890 a total of 332 workers organisations, trades unions etc. were banned, 1500 people jailed and 1300 books and newspapers suppressed.

Perhaps Churchill is not too wrong in his comparison.

Un-de-dirtying

American newspapers in the past few days have produced the delightful new phrase: "brain de-washing". They use the word in connection with American prisoners of war released from Korea. My Oxford Dictionary defiess the word "wash" as "cleanse".

"De-wash" can therefore only mean to "dirty"; or in other words, American psychiatrists are engaged on filthying up the minds of those poor G. I. s.

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